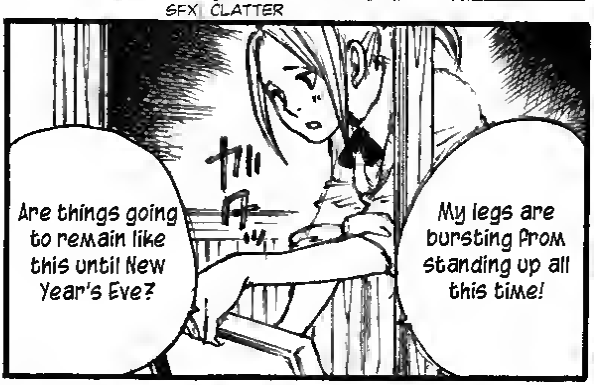
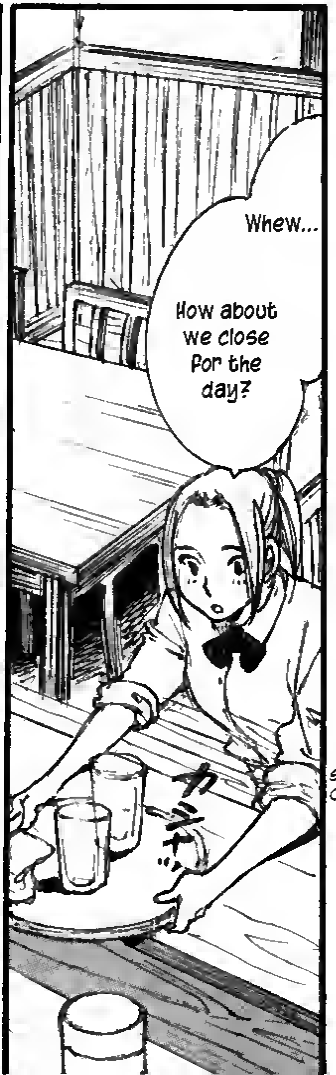
scene9

Thank you very much.
SFX: BLAM!

I'm a little tired from today.
Yeah... It seems that clients are flocking here for after-parties of their end-of-year celebrations.


SFX: CLATTER
Are things going to remain like this until New Year's Eve?
My legs are bursting from standing up all this time!

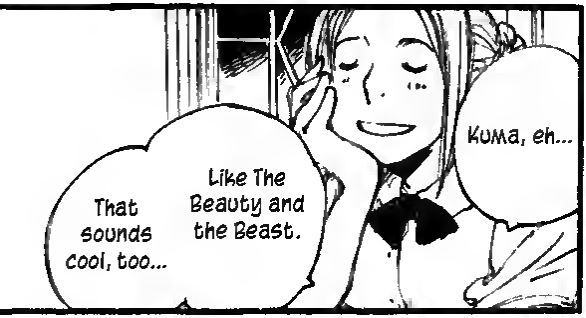
I'll be fine! Don't you have some university training?
Surely, you'll want me to help out for the New Year, too?

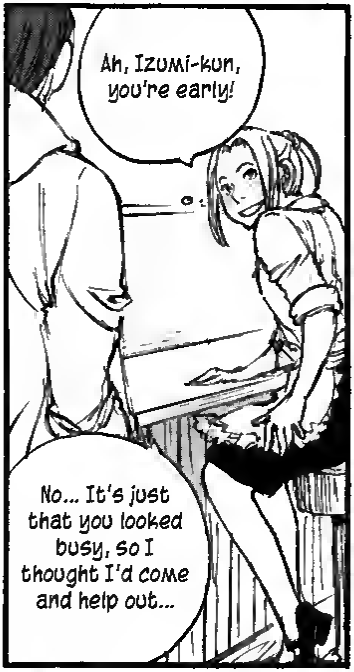

Whew...
How about we close for the day?
SFX: CLATTER

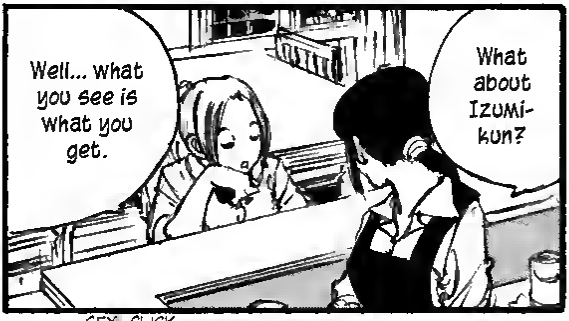
Well...
It's an old friend who's coming to Tokyo...
I'm worried...
Er... But it will be tough for you alone, Kyouko-san!
I'll be fine. Someone else should show up to help, you see.
Ah, is that so? Glad to hear... I mean,
Who?
You say he's a friend.
Ah,
you're going to spend the New Year together, right?
Ah.
I know.
The one who calls you every now and then.

...
His name's Kuma.
Everyone calls him that.

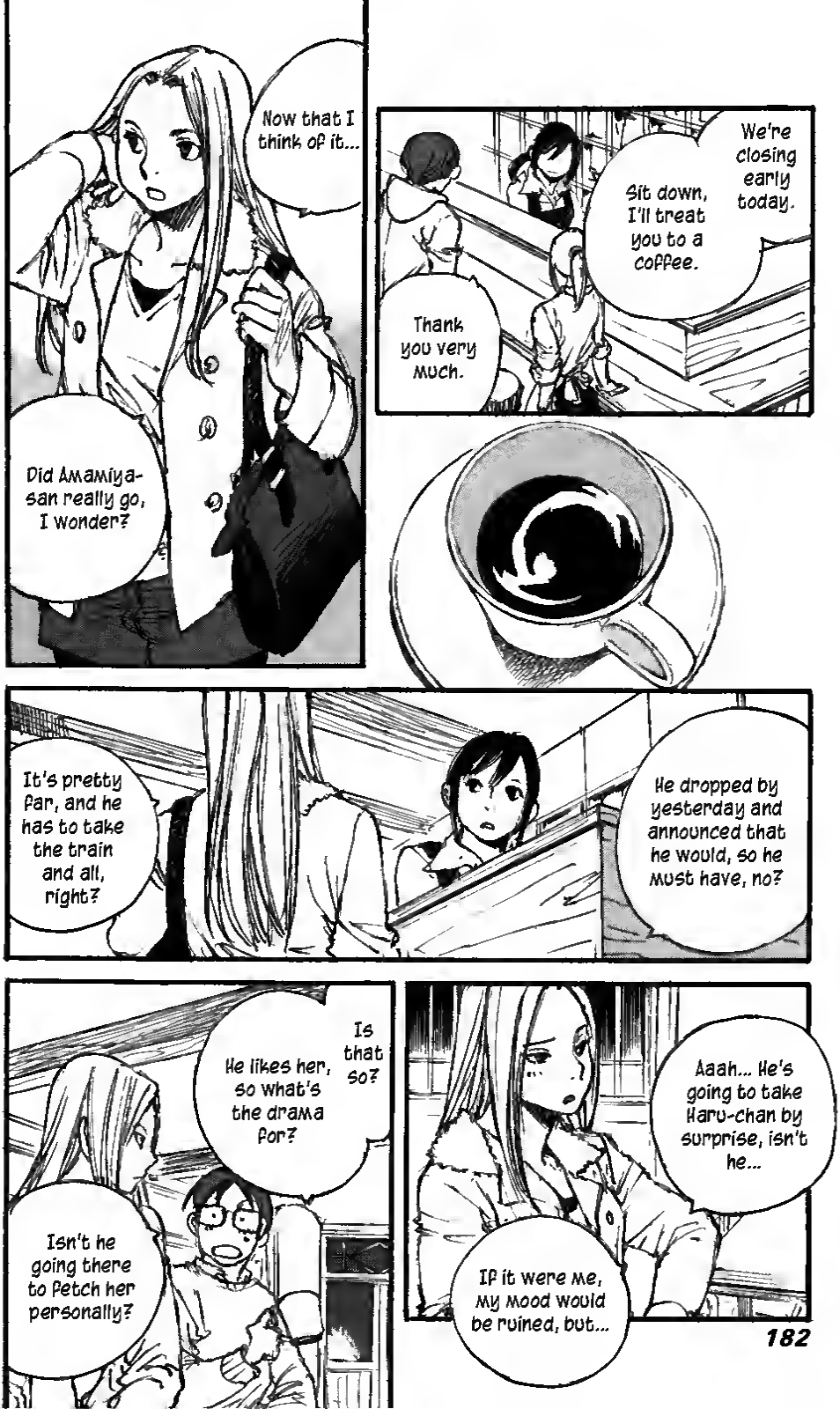
What kind of person is he?
Waah, I wanna see him.
What kind, you ask...
H-He has an unfashionable beard...?


Kuma, eh...
Like The Beauty and the Beast.
That sounds cool, too...


Ah, Izumi-kun, you're early!
No... It's just that you looked busy, so I thought I'd come and help out...

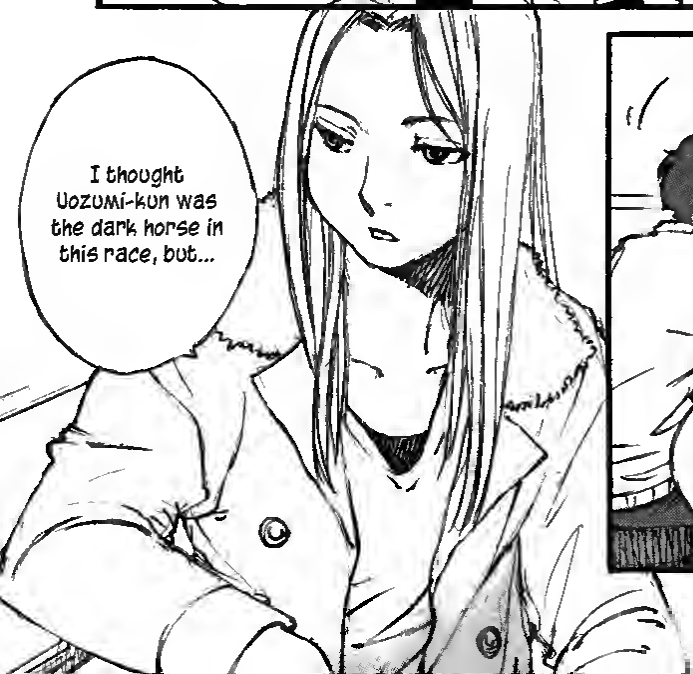

Well... what you see is what you get.
What about Izumi-kun?

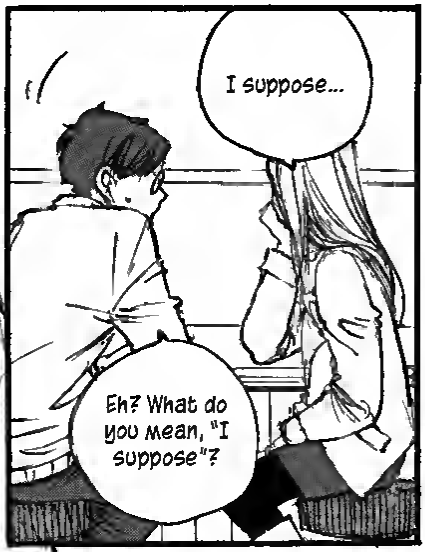
SFX CLICK
It would be good if he were a little wild, or should I say, it would be sexy...
Sorry for being a small herbivore.


Now that I think of it...
Did Amamiya-san really go, I wonder?
We're closing early today.
Sit down, I'll treat you to a coffee.
Thank you very much.
It's pretty far, and he has to take the train and all, right?
He dropped by yesterday and announced that he would, so he must have, no?
Is that so?
He likes her, so what's the drama for?
Isn't he going there to fetch her personally?
Aaah... He's going to take Haru-chan by surprise, isn't he...
If it were me, my mood would be ruined, but...

Takako-chan, those remarks only throw gasoline onto the fire...
Isn't that what we call an excessively self-conscious person...?
I-I'll reform my notions.
Typical. I can only laugh at how fascinated men are with themselves.

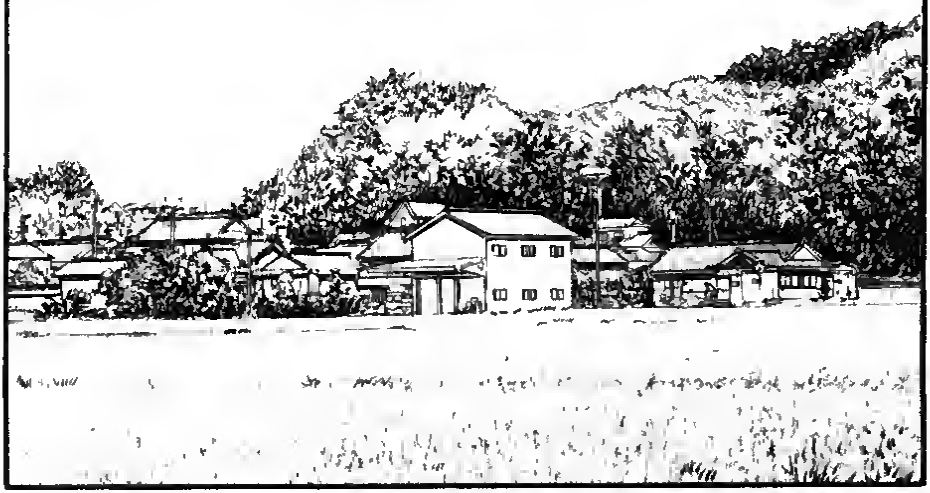
Well...
Then again...
If Amamiya-san does bring her back,
it will be because Haru-chan will have wanted to come back, too...

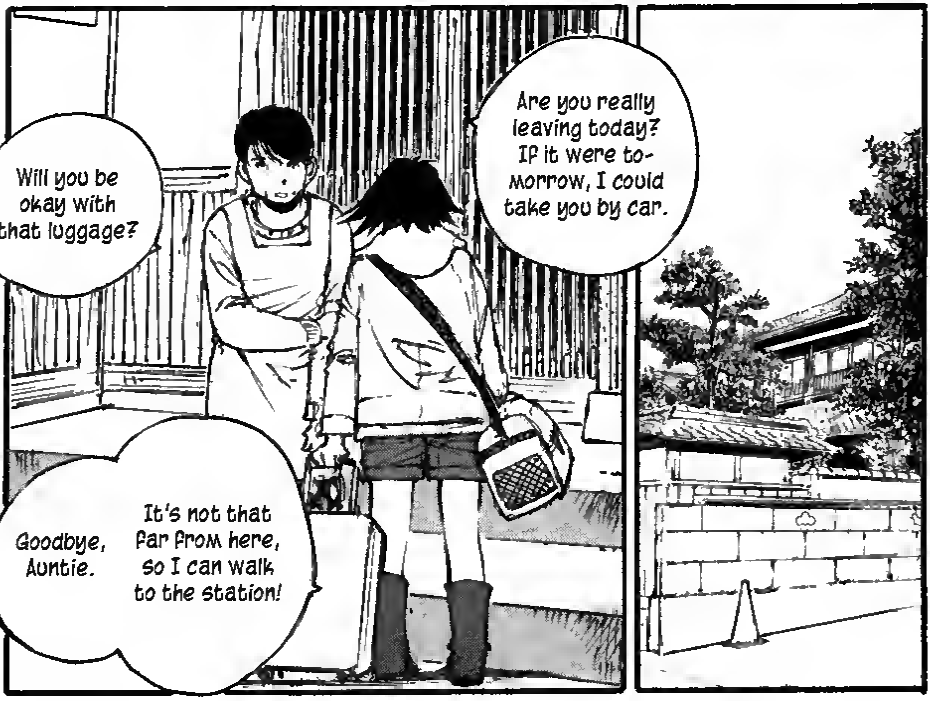

I thought Uozumi-kun was the dark horse in this race, but...


I suppose...
Eh? What do you mean, "I suppose"?

See you next year!
Then, Kyouko-san, have a happy New Year!
Send my best to Kuma-san!
But isn't Shinako-sensei...?
Exactly.
Let's go!

Izawa-kun.
RRR
Yes, this is Milk Hall.

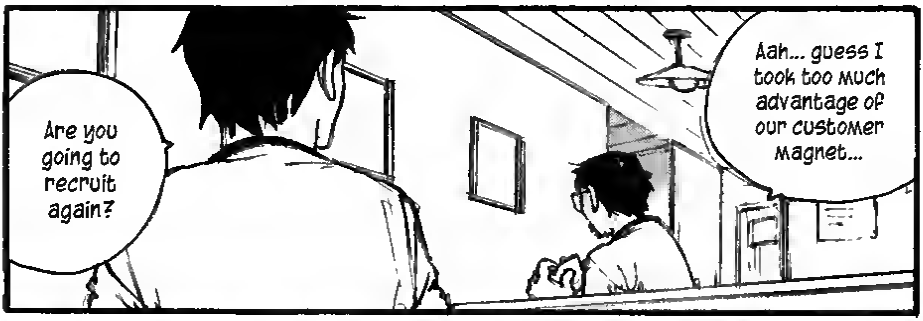


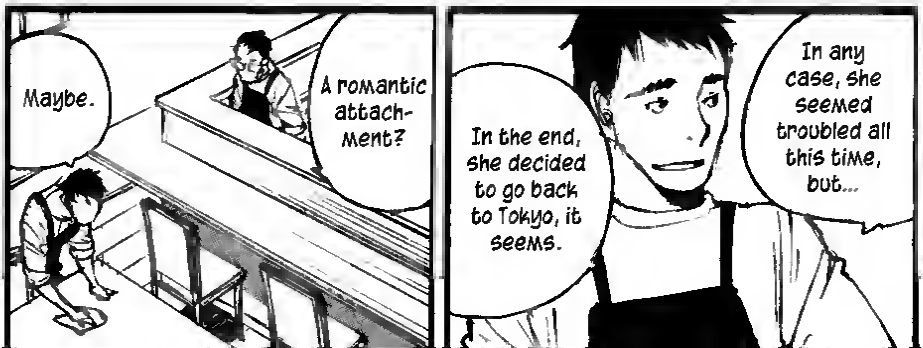

Are you really leaving today? If it were tomorrow, I could take you by car.
Will you be okay with that luggage?
It's not that far from here, so I can walk to the station!
Goodbye, Auntie.

Haru-chan, here!

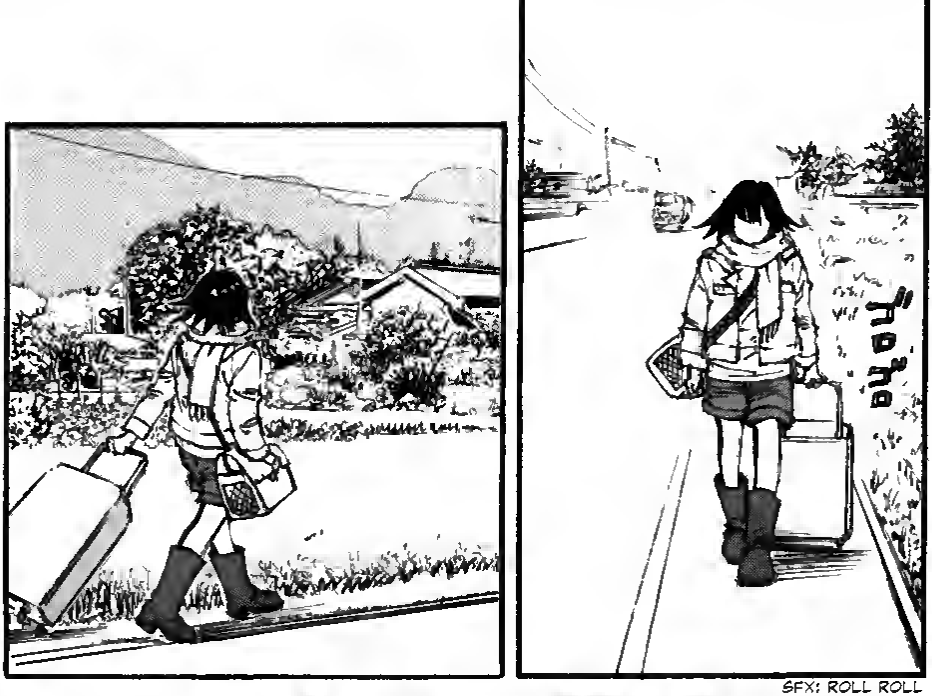
I'll definitely come back again, so...
Stay well, okay?
Granny...
I'm glad I made it in time.
I knitted this for you.
I have a cellphone, you know!
I'm gonna write a postcard!

SIGN: PUB KUMA

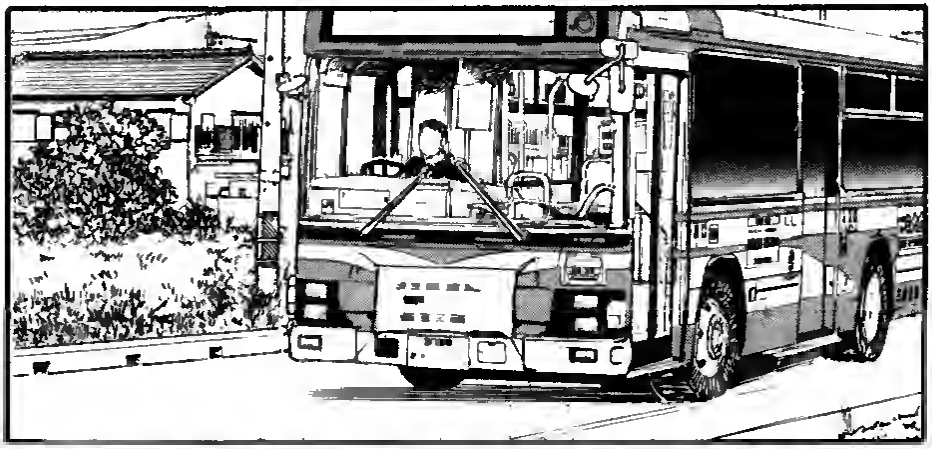


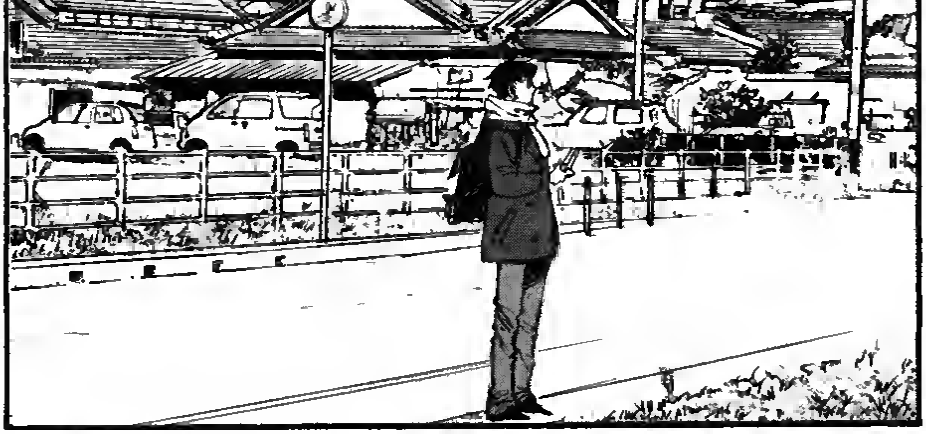

Maybe.
A romantic attach-ment?
In the end, she decided to go back to Tokyo, it seems.
In any case, she seemed troubled all this time, but...

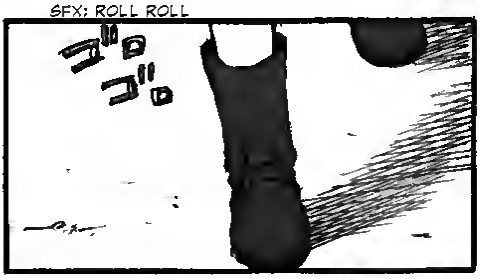
You are able to adapt to strange circumstances yourself.
Maybe it runs in the family?
She's a fairly difficult girl.
If you think of how she lives wandering around, there's a surprisingly serious side to her.
SFX: CLATTER
So you're saying it comes from my father's side?
No... but, Aunt Akiko does live by going with the flow...
Ah, I'm sorry, lunchtime's already over.
It's five o'clock, though...



SFX: ROLL ROLL

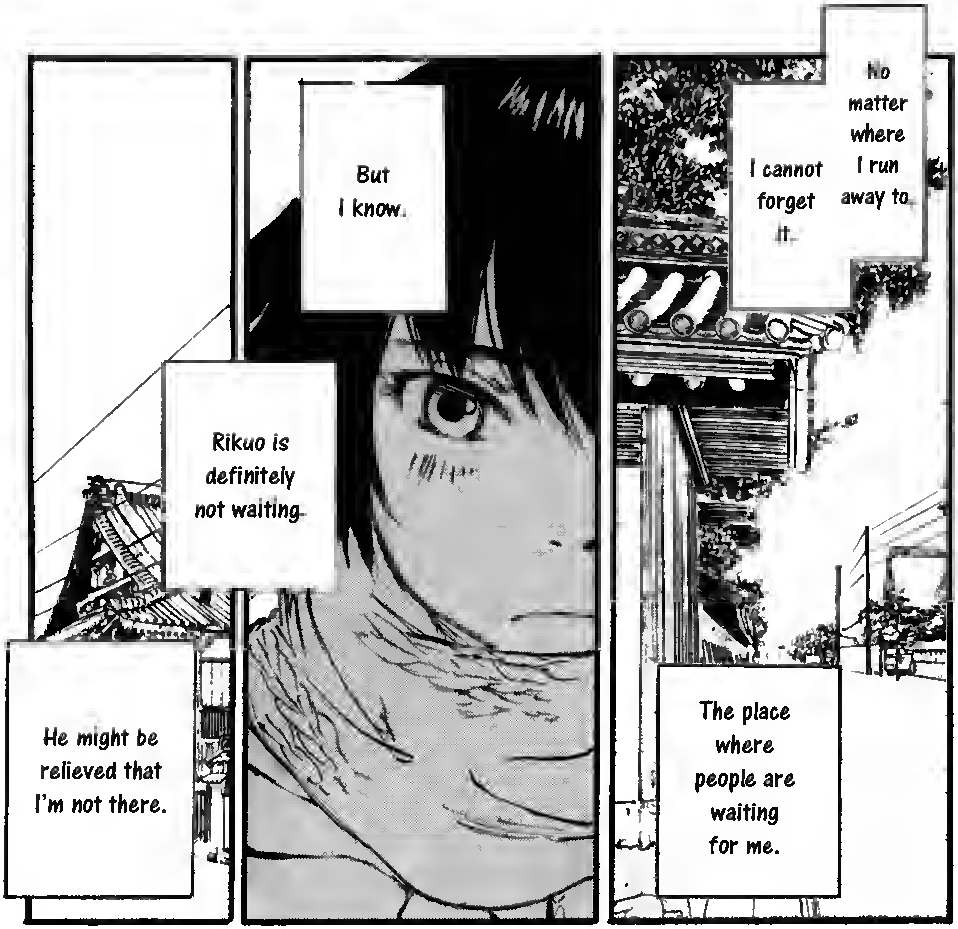





SFX: ROLL ROLL
ゴロゴロ

SFX: ROLL ROLL
ゴロゴロ

I racked my brains over this and that, in the end, and yet the destination I wander towards
is the place my soul longs for.

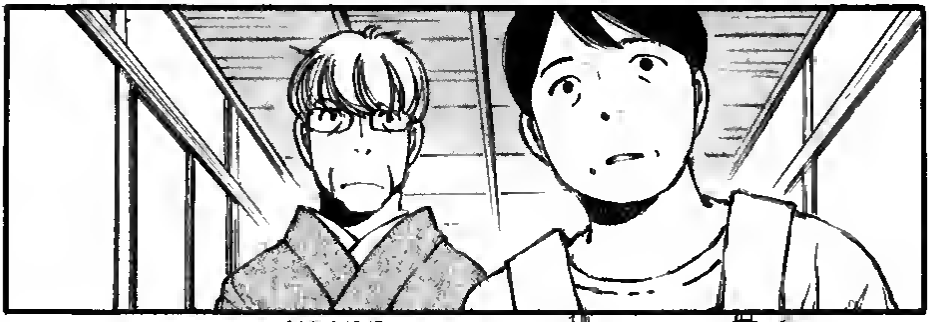

No matter where I run away to,
I cannot forget it.
But I know.
Rikuo is definitely not waiting.
He might be relieved that I'm not there.
The place where people are waiting for me.

However, by running away like this,

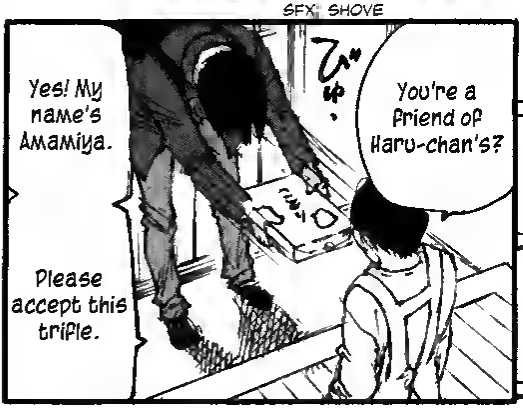
even if it's bitter, even if it's lonely,

it's by letting this wound ache until it heals

that I'll be able to move forward.



SFX: SHOVE

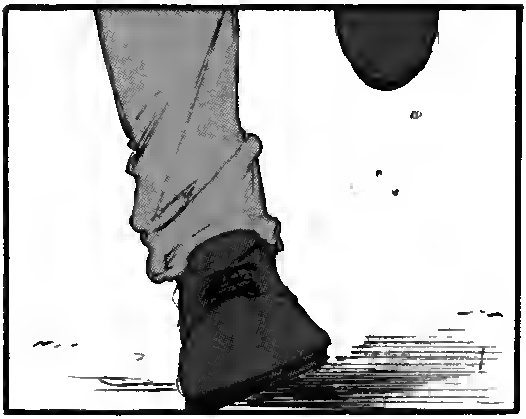

You're a friend of Haru-chan's?
Yes! My name's Amamiya.
Please accept this trifle.

I heard from her mother that Haru-san is staying here and came to meet her.

SFX: RING RING RING
Ah!
The phone.
You've missed her, I'm afraid.
Er...
Eh?
Hello, this is Akimoto.
Ah...
Is something the matter, Akira?
Please wait a moment, it might be Haru-chan.
Eh?
Eh?
She has, but about that, we have a visitor who just missed her
No... has Haru-chan left already?

A visitor also came to meet her...
Eh?
No, here too...
I thought she would run away if I contacted her...
Well, that might have happened...
Eeh!?
She left for Tokyo a little while ago!?
Why did you come without an appoint-ment, then?

Well, in any case,
since she's going back to Tokyo,
isn't it just as well to meet her there?
I don't quite understand the situation, but...
Since she went to the station on foot, if you go quickly, you might be able to meet her there!
I-Is that so?
SFX: RUNNING
Hoo...
There would be no meaning to that.
Who was it?
It was Akira.
About that...



There's another guest from Tokyo at Akira's shop, who also came to visit Haru-chan...

These shoes aren't meant for running!

I might be an idealist, in the end!
Achieving things by sheer will-power and stuff like that...
It's not something I believed as I lived my life up to now, but...
When you show you have the willpower, women are generally moved by it
In that case, do your best
Somehow, there's a person at our house who also came from Tokyo to meet Haru-chan, you see.
Do you know each other?
Then, Haru didn't know you were coming to see her, does she?
Y-
Yeah...

What's the matter?
You said it hasn't been long since she left, so I'll catch her at the station nearby.
I'm going after her.
SFX: RISE

scene 9 End